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From: Smith, Bonnie
Sent: Thur 2/27/2014 6:50:32 PM
Subject: HEADLINES: Duke Energy Response and Freedom Industries Response - Feb. 27, 2014

DUKE ENERGY RESPONSE

ROANOKE TIMES: Danville officials survey site that led to coal ash spill

The Danville City Council got a close look at the coal ash storage pond that sent tons of ash and contaminated water into Danville's drinking water source on Feb. 2. As the group looked over the almost water-free primary ash storage basin, Danville Vice Mayor Gary Miller asked when both the primary and secondary basins would be moved away from the edge of the Dan River. "It's a ticking time bomb sitting on the river," Miller said. Duke Energy spokesperson Jeff Scott said the company does not have a timeline for complete removal of the coal ash storage basins from the retired Dan River Steam Station, noting that since the collapse occurred, their primary concern has been to stop the leaks. Now, Scott said, a Duke Energy team is evaluating the best way for coal ash deposits to be relocated in safer storage containers. "We have a new team evaluating all of our ash basins, not just the Dan River [Steam Station] or the ones in North Carolina, but all of them," Scott said, adding that the company cannot do anything without getting approval from the array of federal, state and local agencies involved since the spill. And, Scott said, before any further disturbance to the river can begin, many more sediment samples, water samples and fish tissue samples will be needed to evaluate what needs to be done to do the cleanup correctly, efficiently and with as little disturbance to fish and wildlife as possible. Mayor Sherman Saunders asked if Scott could estimate how long the testing, evaluation and cleanup would be done; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representative Myles Bartos said, "That's the million-dollar question," and repeated the steps that have to be taken before cleanup could start. "It's not an overnight process," Scott said.

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH: NC could force Duke to move dump away from river
North Carolina regulators say they may force Duke Energy to move a pair of leaky coal ash dumps, more than three weeks after a massive spill coated 70 miles of the Dan River in toxic gray sludge. The state Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Tuesday it plans to reopen Duke's wastewater discharge permit and consider changes that would require the company to remove its remaining coal ash from the site at Eden near the Virginia line to a lined landfill away from the river. The agency's statement makes no indication whether similar permitting changes are under consideration for Duke's other 13 dumps in North Carolina.

FREEDOM INDUSTRIES RESPONSE

Ken Ward tweet @ 9:45 AM: "EPA told me WV has lead and state 'has not requested that EPA participate in community briefings."

BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH

Association works to keep costs of chemical spill out of Bluefield

A local neighborhood association is petitioning to keep local water customers from incurring costs associated with the recent chemical spill in Charleston. The South Bluefield Neighborhood Association is asking residents to sign a petition to make sure cost associated with the chemical spill are accounted for separately from their normal accounting records, and to ensure that residents in Bluefield are not affected by the potential rate increase. "The longer this goes on the longer it will take to figure out the cost associated with the chemical spill," Blaine Braithwaite, director of the South Bluefield Neighborhood Association, said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. VA.)

WV plans work on tourism image after chem spill

West Virginia officials want to put the shine back in the state's "Wild and Wonderful" tourism image after a chemical spill tainted the tap water for thousands of residents. Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin is talking with Commerce Secretary Keith Burdette and other tourism officials about developing a promotional message in the wake of the spill, said state Tourism Commissioner Betty Carver. Carver said funding, the campaign's message and timing, and the potential markets to be targeted have not been determined yet. The campaign funding would be in addition to what the state already spends on tourism promotion. A coal-cleaning agent spilled into the Elk River on Jan. 9, prompting a tap water-use ban that lasted several days in nine counties. Many residents continue to use bottled water despite repeated declarations by federal health officials that the tap water is safe. "The 'Wild and Wonderful' brand is a really strong brand," said Dave Arnold, a member of the state Tourism Commission and a partner of whitewater outfitter Adventures on the Gorge. "The question is, how much is the brand tarnished? The brand is tarnished to some extent. Is it just a little bit? Is it something that's going to go away?" The "Wild Wonderful West Virginia" phrase became widely used in the mid-1970s, appearing on everything from government pamphlets to license plates.

House passes bill addressing drilling waste

The West Virginia House has approved a bill allowing commercial solid waste facilities to accept drilling waste from horizontal well sites. The bill allows drill cuttings to be accepted beyond waste facilities' monthly tonnage limits through Dec. 31, 2016, if cuttings are placed in a separate cell. Solid waste facilities accepting drill cuttings must install radiation monitors by Jan. 1, 2015. Delegate Tim Manchin said drilling companies would be charged \$1 per ton to fund Department of Environmental Protection studies on the viability of using existing landfills for cuttings. The fee will also go toward maintaining roads to landfills.

WCHXTV - ABC 8

Small Business Leaders Meet To Discuss Water Crisis

Small business owners met Wednesday night for a town hall meeting about the water crisis. The Harry Bell Law Firm sponsored the event at the Sheraton Hotel in Charleston. Panelists answered questions from the audience, full of concerned business owners who were worried because the water crisis has had such a profound effect on the economy and the confidence of consumers. Next, women will have the chance to voice their concerns about the water crisis.

WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

State and Local Tourism Evaluate Post-Spill Plans, Conference Participants Leave With No Bad Taste

With the state eclipsing the \$5 billion mark for tourism revenue in 2012, this week's Travel South Conference in Charleston gave visitors bureaus across the state a chance to cash in and drive even more tourism opportunities to their respective areas. But the conference comes nearly seven weeks after the spill of thousands of gallons of MCHM into the Elk River by Freedom Industries. Many locals worry that the tourism economy would, much like the water, be left with a tainted reputation. Tourism professionals from across the country seemed unphased by the water crisis while here and local travel professionals hope the stigma of the spill won't last. "We had worked on this for 18 months and we really felt comfortable, quite honestly, that the group would not start seeing cancelations," said West Virginia Division of Tourism Commissioner Betty Carver. Given the circumstances surrounding the chemical spill and water crisis, Carver said her office, along with Governor Tomblin and Commerce Secretary Keith Burdette, is evaluating a new marketing campaign following the incident. She said it's not yet known when that project will launch. Leading up to the conference, Carver said she reached out to other organizers of the conference to gauge whether or not participants would actually show. One person she called after the spill was Travel South Executive Director Liz Bittner. Bittner has some experience with trying to help cities and states market themselves after disasters, like the BP Oil spill into the Gulf Coast in 2010. She said conference participants didn't express any concerns over the water while in Charleston.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

SOJ to host panel on Charleston chemical spill

On Jan. 9, some 300,000 residents of the Charleston, W.Va. area feared for their safety when thousands of gallons of a toxic chemical leaked into the Elk River, contaminating the water supply. Journalists covered the story relying on traditional "boots-on-the-ground" reporting and using social media. Through their reporting and engagement, they held industry and government officials accountable, provided immediate updates on the developing story, and gathered information from people affected by the disaster. On March 24, the West Virginia University P.I. Reed School of Journalism will present, "From Beats to Tweets: Media Coverage of the Elk River Spill," a moderated panel to address local and national coverage of the event and to examine how crisis coverage has changed in today's 24/7 digital media environment. The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms. It is free and open to the public. The event is part of the School's The Future of Media—NOW! series, which brings to campus professionals who are reinventing journalism, media and 21st century communications. **About the Panelists** David Boucher (@Dave_Boucher1) is a reporter covering the Capitol for the Charleston Daily Mail and has covered events surrounding the spill, the EPA and Freedom Industries' bankruptcy. Previously, Boucher was an education reporter for the Daily Mail. After

graduating from Northwestern University in 2010, he was a staff writer for Gratiot County Herald in Ithaca, Mich., and Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville, Ky. David Gutman (@davidlgutman) is a reporter for The Charleston Gazette and has covered the chemical spill, the government response and Freedom Industries' bankruptcy. Previously, Gutman covered West Virginia state government for the Associated Press. He attended Colby College and the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. April Kaull (@april_kaull) is a news anchor for West Virginia Media based at WOWK-TV in Charleston, W. Va., where she has worked since 2000. Since joining WOWK, Kaull has served as executive producer and anchor for "West Virginia Tonight Live" and vice president of news operations for West Virginia Media. Kaull is a 1995 graduate of the WVU P.I. Reed School of Journalism. Ashton Marra (@AshtonMarra) covers the Capitol for West Virginia Public Radio. During the legislative session, she focuses on the state Senate, providing daily reports from the inner-workings of the state's upper house. Previously, Marra was a production assistant for "Good Morning America" where she also produced several pieces for broadcast. Marra is a 2012 graduate of the WVU P.I. Reed School of Journalism.

WSAZ TV- 3

W. Va. House Approves Millions in Infrastructure Cuts

West Virginia House members have approved \$39 million in proposed cuts across areas like infrastructure, greyhound and thoroughbred racing to help balance a tight budget. Finance Committee chairman Del. Brent Boggs said the cuts take \$20 million from water and sewer infrastructure projects, without affecting roads. Some of the remaining \$19 million would come from 10 percent cuts in subsidies for dog and horse tracks, casinos, tourism and cultural facilities. About \$5.4 million for renovations at the Capitol would transfer into the general pot of state money. Delegates approved the move 75-25 Wednesday. The Senate will next consider it. House Speaker Tim Miley has said tax cuts aren't an option this election year. But he said lawmakers could use up to \$200 million from state reserves.

Water Distribution Sites Closed Thursday Due to Weather

Kanawha County officials say due to the weather, there will be no bulk water distribution sites Thursday. Kanawha County Manager Jennifer Sayre says the sites will be closed Thursday, February 27 due to below freezing temperatures. The sites were also closed Wednesday due to snow.

On an oil spill....

ALLEGHENY FRONT (WESTERN PA. RADIO SERIES):

Trains Bring Oil Spills, and Worries Over Safety

From his living room in North Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, Rob Smeltzer likes to watch the trains roll by across the Kiskiminetas River. Lately, he's seen a change in the type of cars that roll by his window. "There seem to be more tankers today than what there was, three or four years ago," Smeltzer says. One morning last week, he was in his living room when he heard a loud noise. He knew immediately what it was. He says it sounded like the "crunching of steel." "Banging, clanging, rattling. [It sounded like] the trucks leaving the tracks." The sounds came from a

Norfolk Southern train carrying oil and liquefied natural gas leaving the tracks. About 4,000 gallons of crude oil spilled in the parking lot of an industrial building near the train tracks. Federal rail investigators are still investigating. It was the latest in a series of derailments involving the shipment of crude oil on trains. According to a report from McClatchy newspapers, more oil was spilled in rail accidents in 2013 than the previous 37 years combined. Why? Experts say, it's sheer numbers. "We have a lot more oil trains running around," said Allan Zarembski, director of the railroad safety and engineering program at the University of Delaware.

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